

73. (Amended) A method of generating a temperature gradient on a stratum comprising placing the stratum in thermal contact on a surface having a temperature gradient, the stratum having a thermal conductivity that is significantly lower than that of the surface. --

Please add new claims 78-81.

-- 78. (New) The method of claim 73 wherein the thermal conductivity of the stratum is about 1 W/m/K or less.

79. (New) A method of generating a temperature gradient on a stratum comprising placing the stratum in thermal contact on a surface having a temperature gradient, the stratum comprising materials selected from the group consisting of glass, silicon and plastic.

80. (New) The method of claim 79 wherein the stratum has a thermal conductivity that is significantly lower than that of the surface.

81. (New) The method of claim 80 wherein the thermal conductivity of the stratum is about 1 W/m/K or less. --